

SELF-LOVE AND SELF-HATE, Sermon, Dan Mayfield 9/30/18

- Do we love or hate ourselves?

1. **Many people hate themselves.** "He who is a partner with a thief HATES his own life. (Soul, nephesh)

Pro 29:24.

a. "Partners in crime" - A wise father teaches wisdom to the child in Proverbs 1, saying, "when thieves and murderers say *'throw in your lot with us and we will lie in wait for blood, let us ambush the innocent without cause.'* **Pro. 1:11**. But he says *"they lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush their own lives."* **v18**.

b. Moral people would agree being partners with thieves is a bad thing.

c. This kind of partnering is a form of self-hatred: "hates his own life".

Partnering in sin through business like Proverbs 1 warns the son against is lacking sense.

Ever heard the saying "he is his own worst enemy"? HATES is a Hebrew word tied to an **enemy** or a **foe**. Sabotaging your life is a form of self hatred.

i. Such will run afoul of the law, the king. And ultimately such a course of life will lead to eternal judgement as the wages of sin.

d. There really is a thing called self loathing. And instances of it are epidemic.

i. What people do to destroy their bodies is self-hatred. What people do to destroy their minds is self-hatred. What people do to alienate themselves from God is self-hatred.

e. Ways to harm self - Engaging in sin, you have to hate yourself.

i. Sin is destructive. "*But he who sins against Me injures himself; all those who hate me love death.*" **Pro. 8:36**.

ii. Proverbs has literal chapters devoted to the self-destructive path of sexual sins.

-- "*The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it.*" **Pro. 6:32**.

-- And the adulteress, "*For her house sinks down to death And her tracks lead to the dead;*" **Pro. 2:18**

iii. Gaining by violence takes away one's life, **Pro. 1:19**. Thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not covet, thou shalt not murder. These things are destructive to others but also to self. "Ill gotten gains do not profit", **Pro. 10:2**

- Opposite of violence, kindness is called for often in the Proverbs. "*What is desirable in a man is his kindness.*" **Pro. 19:22**

iv. Sins of excess: Poverty comes from laziness, **Pro. 6:10** "*For the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty,*" **Pro 23:21**. Alcohol. "*whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise*" **Pro. 20:1**

v. "*the cruel man does himself harm.*" **Pro. 11:17** God values kindness.

- vi. Pride and corrupt business. "*The LORD will tear down the house of the proud,*" **Pro. 15:25**; "*He who profits illicitly troubles his own house,*" **Pro. 15:27**;
- vii. Human philosophies, belief systems, encourage sin and are destructive to the soul. HERE IS EVOLUTION: Life is an accident. It Has no purpose. Ageing and death are evolved. There is no morality. No soul and life eternal and no God. Now tell me that isn't demoralizing. You are an animal? Animals have no morals. They have no conscience. And the goal of atheism, wrapped up in evolution theory, is to rob man of the nobility God imbued in him, calling us children made in His image.
- viii. Atheism is immoral. As I said about evolution, it is demoralizing. When men reject God, they by definition reject His wisdom and virtue. To them everything goes. Anything is allowed if it feels good at the moment. But the day of reckoning and consequences for the breaking of God are never attributed to the sinful paths these atheists have been proponents of.
 - 1. I despise these human philosophies because they are the foundation of framing for teaching people, especially from childhood, to hate God and to think very little of life and the soul!
- ix. I BELIEVE SELF-HATRED IS TAUGHT. Self hate happens to children. They have been hated and so they hate self.

Let us love ourselves as God's children. Let us make sure we have not believed an anti-human philosophy that robs man of value and relegates virtue to animal instincts. Tell your children they are souls made in God's image. Tell them to reject the human philosophies that will be pushed upon them from every direction in school, television, and society.
- f. Why people self-harm? Why do people sabotage themselves? At the root we see, over and over again, is they hate God and they hate themselves. They love sin.
 - i. Again, "*But he who sins against Me injures himself; all those who hate me love death.*" **Pro. 8:36**.
 - ii. They hate their soul (Pro 29:24) and now they love death! There is no way to reason with this. To hate God is to love death.
 - iii. Notice he mentions the result is SELF-HARM. The self-destructive path is often noted as being related to having a low view of self.
 - iv. They self injure because they do not love life. They poison. They are suicidal. They break relations and alienate themselves.
- g. Ultimately, crime doesn't pay. Sin brings death. Hostility towards God brings judgment.
- h. And only those who love God do good for their own soul.

2. Self Love, a spiritual concept.

- a. **And get** wisdom. "*He who gets wisdom LOVES HIS OWN SOUL*" **Pro. 19:8.**
 - i. Talking about God's wisdom: "*She is a **tree of life** to those who embrace her, and those who lay hold of her are blessed.*" **Pro. 3:18**

The 'tree of life' is a real tree. Wise words are words that bring us to the place of salvation so that we get back to the real true in heaven.
- b. There really is a path to life that involves TRUTH; which is the wisdom you get.
 - i. "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls." Pro. 11:30.

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD IS ALL ABOUT WINNING SOULS
 - ii. By reason, since loving the soul is about getting wisdom, we conclude that a person who hates her soul who does not seek wisdom.

Jesus said, "*what will a man give in exchange for his own soul?*" **Mk 8:37.**

Therefore it is paramount that we love our own self, our own soul.
- c. Self Love is good. It is not a sin to love self. You should love yourself.
- d. Jesus said to love your neighbor as yourself. The second great commandment is like the first, to love God with all of your soul, strength, and mind And love your neighbor" is really only possible if we love self, **Lk 10:27**
 - i. Loving God and loving your fellow man are tied together. John shows you cannot do one and not do the other.
 1. You cannot love God when you demean His work and His Son.

3. It Starts With Getting back to God

- a. **Only** through the love of God and His righteousness can we bless our soul!

"In the way of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death." **Pro. 12:28.**
- b. To bless yourself this way means first having a healthy and warranted fear/respect for the Creator. **Pro. 1:7** says, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*".
- c. The question for us today is do we love or hate our soul? We must first love God.
- d. Get wisdom. Seek God. Fear God. Love God. Seek truth because The Proverb says you love your soul when you seek God's wisdom.
- e. Do we love our soul because God loves you; your soul. Sometimes we do not love until we have come to know the love of God. God cares for our soul enough to save us who are lost.
- f. Have we obeyed the Gospel? 3 x's in N.T. Rom. 10:16; 2 Thess 1:7,8; 1 Peter 4:17.

Have we repented of sin and turned to following God? Have we bought the wisdom of God?
- g. Will you repent and obey the Gospel today? Life is short but eternity is long.
- h. And sharing the good news of God is going to bless others too.